

# Translines EXPRESS

Dec. 14, 2016

## District Five

**The \$1.9 million K-61 bridge replacement over the North Fork Ninescah River (located northeast of Arlington) in Reno County is moving forward. The old bridge has been removed and work is being done on the substructure. Piles are being driven, piers are being established, footings are being poured and the bridge columns should be poured starting this week. Kelly Keele's road squad and Mark Hurt's bridge squad designed the project.**



## KHP

**KHP recognition:** Communication Systems Administrator Ed Geer was surprised by the Kansas Highway Patrol when he went to visit on Dec. 5 as he was presented the Honorary Trooper Award.

"I was just going over there to say good-bye," Geer said. "I've always enjoyed working with the KHP, they're a pretty good bunch of people." Geer is retiring on Jan. 1 after 26 years of service at KDOT. In a letter from Col. Mark Bruce, he highlighted Geer's critical role in the evolution of the KDOT radio system to where it now has interoperability for multi-agency responses. "You worked with our personnel in installing a new recorder system in central dispatch and Troop K when each phone system was changed to VOIP," Col. Bruce said. "You have also been instrumental with Motorola upgrades throughout the state to make the system more robust and reliable."

Bruce said the award was presented for Geer's significant contributions to the mission and goals of



**Ed Geer, left, accepts the Honorary Trooper Award from Col. Mark Bruce.**

the KHP. To receive the award, a person must be nominated, and that nomination must be approved by a review board.



**Please note:** Due to the holidays, there will not be a Dec. 28 Translines edition. The next edition will be on Jan. 11, 2017.

**2016 Discretionary Day - take on or before Dec. 30.**

**State offices are closed on Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.**

### Trivia!

#### 12 Days of Christmas – the song

1. When was the song first published?
2. In earlier versions of the song, what other terms were used for “calling birds?”
3. The song is thought to originate from \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This animated group included the song on their 1963 Christmas album.
5. In Jeff Foxworthy’s redneck rendition of the song, there were not five rings. What were there five of?
6. On the calendar, when do the 12 days of Christmas begin?

### Kudos

*The following emails were sent to the District One office -*

I’m overjoyed by all the work that there has been done. What a nightmare and a fulfilling task it is after 2 1/2 years. To project that the work will be completed within the timeframe projecting all this work and various tasks. The project managers are to be commended.  
Thank you, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!  
Joe Clark

As I drove through the I35/I435 interchange today, I remembered a conversation we had about how you only were hearing about people’s frustrations. Well, I wanted to thank you for your part in a job well done. I don’t know if that’s completely finished or not, but it is certainly a smooth and effortless transition from one highway to the other.  
Thank you and to the whole team.  
Michael Maybee

### Headquarters



**Above: Many employees stopped by the Employees Council annual Holiday Reception and Artwalk on Dec. 7 at ESOB including, from left to right, Gelene Savage, David Behzadpour and Robyn Dudney who enjoyed some cookies and hot chocolate. Top right: Evelyn Piper, left, gives score sheets to the ‘celebrity’ cookie contest judges - KDOT retirees Jewell Murray, Dick McReynolds and Dan Scherschligt. Right: Melissa Rau, left, talks to Nelda and Steven Buckley about her artwork, mainly the life-sized historic sculpture of Dr. James Naismith, seen on the right.**



### Aviation

**Aviation art contest:** State and federal aviation officials are encouraging young artists take their talents to new heights by participating in the 2017 International Aviation Art Contest, “Beyond the Clouds.”

The contest is for artists 6 to 17 years of age and is intended to “celebrate the adventures and excitement only available in that special place beyond the clouds.”

There is no entry fee and the deadline to enter is Jan. 20, 2017. It is sponsored by KDOT, the National Association of State Aviation Officials, the Federal Aviation Administration and other organizations. Artists will compete in age groups:

- Those born between Jan. 1, 2007, and Dec. 31, 2010
- Jan. 1, 2003, and Dec. 31, 2006
- And Jan. 1, 1999, and Dec. 31, 2002

State winners will receive a certificate and state recognition; national winners will receive certificates, ribbons and a framed reproduction of their artwork; and international winners will receive certificates and medals.

Entries cannot be computer-generated and must be submitted in 11¾-by-16½-inch format.

For more information and contest rules, click [here](#).



### Retirees

The following employees will retire from KDOT on Jan. 1.

#### Headquarters

- Albert Davis**, Engineering Technician Specialist, Transportation Safety and Technology
- Edwin Geer**, Information Systems Manager II, Maintenance
- Peggy Hansen-Nagy**, Executive Office Administrator, Office of the Secretary
- Debra Hepp**, Program Consultant II, Contract Compliance
- Katherine Hinman**, Data Base Administrator III, Information Technology
- Michael Mitchell**, Engineering Associate III, Road Design

#### District One

- James Richling**, Equipment Mechanic, Horton
- Terry Smith**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Horton
- Samuel Spears**, Equipment Operator Senior, Shawnee

#### District Two

- Francis Freeman**, Equipment Operator Senior, Mankato

**Kenneth Holub**, Equipment Operator, Marion  
**District Three**

**Richard Conley**, Equipment Operator Senior, Sharon Springs

#### District Four

**John Clark**, Equipment Operator Senior, Fort Scott  
**Donald Coffman**, Equipment Operator Senior, Fort Scott

**Jeffrey Hare**, Equipment Operator Senior, Eureka  
**Donald Hart**, Equipment Mechanic Senior, Chanute  
**Loretta Hess**, Engineering Technician Senior, Chanute

**Robert Miller**, Engineering Technician Senior, Independence

#### District Five

**Michael Bernhardt**, Equipment Operator Senior, Lyons

#### District Six

**Ronald Wigner**, Equipment Operator Senior, Garden City

## Awards

The 60th annual Asphalt Paving Conference took place Dec. 1 in Lawrence. As part of the annual event, the Kansas Asphalt Paving Association presented Workmanship and Engineering awards for 11 projects across the state. KDOT projects

received six awards, and photos of those involved in the winning projects are below. State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick is on the left of each photo and KAPA Executive Director Dan Scherschligt is on the right.



Second from left, A.J. Wilson, from the KDOT Winfield office, and James Hendrix from APAC Shears, accept the Second Place Overlay award for the U.S. 160 project in Sumner County.



Second from right, Dean Jay, from the KDOT Hays office, along with William Havener and Matt Fitzsimmons from Venture Corporation, accept the First Place Overlay award for the U.S. 24 project in Graham County. This project was tied with another.



Second from right, George Dockery, from the KDOT Pittsburg office, and Tyler Weigel from Shilling Construction, accept the Second place Full-Depth Paving award for the U.S. 400 project in Labette County.



Second from left, Joshua Welge, from the KDOT Olathe office, along with Allen Holloway and Justin Dew from Superior Bowen, accept the First Place Director's award for the Johnson County Gateway project.



Second from right, Paul Gripka, from the KDOT Olathe office, along with Jennifer Breuer and Justin Dew from Superior Bowen, accept the First Place Overlay Award for the Johnson County Gateway project. This project also tied with another.



Second from right, Zane Perez, from the KDOT Oakley office, along with Phil Horsfall and Ben Sanders from Venture Corporation, accept the Second Place Directors Award, for the U.S. 83 project in Sheridan County.

## KTA briefs

**Bridge removal:** The view from the East Kellogg toll plaza (MM 50/I-35/KTA) changed considerably as the bridge over Kellogg (near Webb) was removed. Watch the time-lapse demolition video [here](#).  
**Bridge update:** The southbound lanes of the Arkansas River Bridge located at MM 44 on I-35/

KTA has opened to traffic. This project to widen and re-deck the bridge was the first half of a two-year project. The northbound bridge is scheduled to be widened and re-decked beginning next spring. More information for the project can be found [here](#).

## Traffic Safety



A snapshot of the KDOT mannequin challenge video shows a person getting hit by a distracted driver.

**KDOT Mannequin Challenge:** Last month, members of the KDOT headquarters staff and members of the community capitalized on the mannequin challenge social media phenomenon and created a PSA to encourage travelers to put the phones away while driving. A mannequin challenge is successful when everyone in a scene appears to be frozen as if they are in the middle of an activity. This mannequin challenge scene plays out as if a pedestrian, who had been texting and walking, was hit by a driver who was texting and driving. A tagline reading, "Texting and driving could bring your life to

a standstill," flashes at the end of the video. The Huffington Post, an online news organization, found the video and shared it in an article on the website along with other safety PSAs from around the country. The video has had success on social media as well. On Youtube, it has accumulated nearly 1,300 views and has been shared on Facebook and Twitter. DMVs from around the country have also shared it. KDOT employees in the video are: Edmond Lebouf, Melissa Rau, Kate Craft, Denise Petet, Kelly Broxterman, and Mallory Goeke and Alex Wiebel from the safety office. The video can be viewed [here](#).

## General

**Helping others:** Kansas Department of Administration employees are conducting their annual Holiday Giving Drive for two organizations. Wish list items needed are listed below and may be put in boxes located in state office buildings in the Capitol Complex. The drive begins concludes Dec. 19. If you're outside Topeka, organizations in your area similar to these could use items like these as well.

**Boys and Girls Clubs of Topeka:** School supplies: pens, pencils, lined paper, notebooks, graph paper, copy paper, rulers, crayons, construction paper, art supplies, paint brushes. Recreational activities: Athletic equipment, board games, decks of cards, puzzles, Legos

**Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc.:** Dry or canned pet food, small/chewy pet treats, gently used towels, dog and cat toys, pet furniture, scoopable fresh cat litter, pet carriers, leashes, collars, harnesses, grooming supplies, flea/tick treatments, training supplies, cleaning supplies

Kansas Transportation

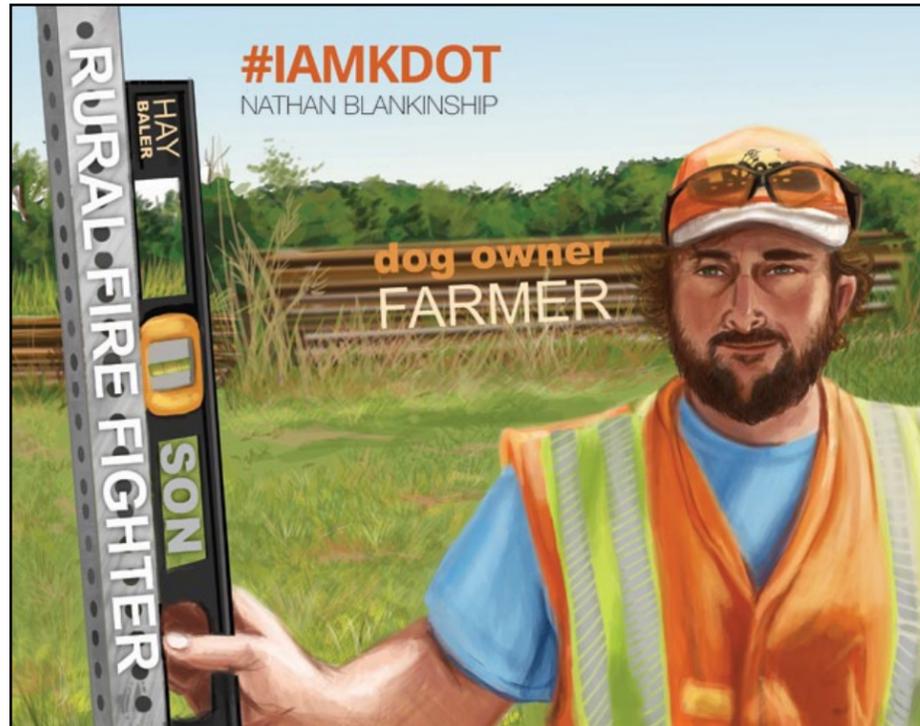
Tuesday, Dec. 13

#IAMKDOT

This month's #IAMKDOT is Nathan Blankinship who has worked at KDOT for about three years and he is an Equipment Operator at the KDOT Sedan Subarea in southeast Kansas.

In this illustration, Nathan is shown leveling a sign post along K-99 in Chautauqua County. Nathan farms east of Sedan, raising cattle and pigs, and is a custom hay baler. In addition to farming and custom baling, in his off-duty hours he volunteers with the Sedan Rural Fire Department. Nathan's dog, a red heeler named Abby, even has her own Facebook page, 'Abby the Chautauqua County Fire Dog.'

#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to ensure Kansans enjoy safe roads, rails and skies. Safe and successful transportation also helps Kansans financially. Some employees of KDOT fill dangerous but necessary positions and this project also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath



those neon vests, are individuals with families and hobbies waiting for them at home.

Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Nominations are open! Email [Mallory.Goeke@ks.gov](mailto:Mallory.Goeke@ks.gov) today to get started!

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

KDOT Employee Council Holiday Ornament Order Form

2016 - update -----

Headquarters: Contact your Council Rep.

Districts/Retirees: Mail form to -  
Ruby Hilton, ESOB - 13th Floor,  
700 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603  
Phone - 785-291-3980



2016 sold out quick! But pre-requests for a final order are being taken. Please contact Ruby Hilton if you are interested.

Year	Quantity	Cost	Total
2016		\$5.00	
2015		\$3.00	
2014		\$3.00	
2013		\$3.00	
2012		\$3.00	
2010		\$3.00	
<b>Total Paid:</b>			

Please Print -

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Retirees only - home address*

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to KDOT Employee Council

For more details, call Ruby at (785) 291-3980

----- Past Ornaments Still Available -----

2010

2012

2013

2014

2015

Supply is limited on ornaments from previous years - first come, first serve

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In England in 1780.
2. Canary birds, mockingbirds or colly birds.
3. A children's memory game.
4. Alvin and the Chipmunks.
5. Flannel shirts.
6. Many think Dec. 13 and they end on Christmas Day, but they actually begin on Christmas Day and end on Jan. 5.

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Alvis Stallard who died on Nov. 29 at Hope West Hospice Care Center in Colorado. He worked at KDOT for 34 years as an Environmental Geologist, retiring in 1993.

Have an idea for a news brief or picture that could be featured in an upcoming edition of Translines Express?

Please e-mail your suggestions to [Kim.stich@ks.gov](mailto:Kim.stich@ks.gov)